

TESTIMONY ON JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY AGENCY BUDGET OVERVIEW  
TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
BY COMMISSIONER J. RUSSELL JENNINGS  
KANSAS JUVENILE JUSTICE AUTHORITY  
JANUARY 28, 2010



J. Russell Jennings  
Commissioner  
785-296-0042  
[rjennings@jja.ks.gov](mailto:rjennings@jja.ks.gov)

During fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010, the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) experienced significant budget reductions through both legislative action and allotment by the Governor. A number of extraordinary steps were taken in order to meet the budget reductions including the closure of two state juvenile correctional facilities. In spite of these reductions, the juvenile justice system in Kansas remains relatively stable. Continued reductions will further erode the ability of the juvenile justice system to sustain the progress made in recent years and will create an environment where the ability to provide for public safety will be compromised.

In July 2007, there were four operating juvenile correctional facilities. Three of the facilities, Atchison, Larned and Topeka were male facilities and Beloit served as the state facility for females. The FY09 approved budget for juvenile correctional facilities was \$33.3 million. In December 2008, operations at the Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility were suspended in order to meet required reductions in agency budget. In July 2009, the Governor's allotment resulted in operations at the Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility being suspended with the female offenders being moved to the renovated west campus of the Topeka facility. All youth committed to a juvenile correctional facility are now confined on one of two campuses, Larned and Topeka. The FY10 adjusted budget for juvenile correctional facility operations now stands at \$25.8 million, a \$7.5 million reduction or 22.4% below the FY09 approved budget. Additional reductions in the FY11 Governor's proposed budget will lead to a total reduction of \$7.78 million or 23.3% over the two-year period for juvenile correctional facility operations.

Operations at the Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility ceased on August 18, 2009. The 22 girls in residence were moved to the west campus of the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex in Topeka. One maintenance employee remains at the Beloit facility to operate the high-pressure boiler system. SB 357 and HB 2450 were introduced this session to transfer the Beloit property to the City of Beloit. The City of Beloit and Mitchell County have worked over the past months to develop a community use for the property. The property was originally given by the City of Beloit to the State for purpose of building the Girl's Industrial School in the late 1800's. JJA sees no future state agency use for the property and encourages the transfer in order to avoid ongoing expenses for utility and maintenance.

The Governor's allotment order in November required JJA to reduce the per diem rate for Medicaid and non-Medicaid covered purchase of services by 10%. Approximately 100 different contract service providers have felt the 10% reduction, which was implemented on January 1, 2010. The reduction in rate resulted in the YRCII contractor at the former Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility, G4S, to ask that the contract with JJA be terminated. Youth residents at the Atchison Youth Residential Center were removed from the facility and were placed in other residential placements. December 18<sup>th</sup> was the final day of YRCII operations at Atchison.

<b>Change from FY 09 to FY 11, SGF Only</b>						
	FY 2009	FY 2011	FY 11	FY 11	Inc/(Dec)	%
	Approved	Request	Gov	Gov	FY 09	Change
			Adjustments	Rec	to FY 11	
Operations	3,924,996	3,683,033	-	3,683,033	(241,963)	-6.16%
MIS	1,166,542	1,158,092	(50,000)	1,108,092	(58,450)	-5.01%
Grad. Sanc.	16,721,809	16,202,355	(1,793,716)	14,408,639	(2,313,170)	-13.83%
Incentive*	1,000,000	627,311	(627,311)	-	(1,000,000)	-100.00%
AYRC	-	396,142	(396,142)	-	-	N/A
<b>Total CO</b>	<b>22,813,347</b>	<b>22,066,933</b>	<b>(2,867,169)</b>	<b>19,199,764</b>	<b>(3,613,583)</b>	<b>-15.84%</b>
KJCC	15,257,019	17,037,443	(181,089)	16,856,354	1,599,335	10.48%
AJCF	5,549,957		-	-	(5,549,957)	-100.00%
BJCF	4,005,685		-	-	(4,005,685)	-100.00%
LJCF	8,546,491	8,990,783	(271,198)	8,719,585	173,094	2.03%
<b>Total JCFs</b>	<b>33,359,152</b>	<b>26,028,226</b>	<b>(452,287)</b>	<b>25,575,939</b>	<b>(7,783,213)</b>	<b>-23.33%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,172,499</b>		<b>(3,319,456)</b>	<b>44,775,703</b>	<b>(11,396,796)</b>	<b>-20.29%</b>

**Table 1** Illustrates budget reductions for JJA since the FY09 approved budget through the Governor's FY11 budget recommendation. Table 1 represents all agency budgeted expenses except for consensus caseload and community prevention grant funding. The JJA caseload budget pays for all residential placements other than detention services. Community prevention grants are supported by the Children's Initiative Fund.

The caseload budget for JJA was reduced by 10% through allotment in November. The remainder of the juvenile justice system budget reductions over the past eighteen months represents a 16.74% reduction from the approved FY09 budget to the present level of the FY10 budget. The Governor's budget recommendation for FY11 will increase the total budget reductions over the two fiscal years to a 20.29% SGF reduction.

Restoration of the 10% Medicaid and purchase of service budget reduction is critical in order to restore stability to the system of providers JJA contracts with to provide residential care. JJA is dependent upon private providers to provide YRCII, group home, services for youth ordered by the court removed from home for community residential placement. Several YRCII's ceased operations as a result of their inability to maintain financial viability. Additional group homes will close if the rates are not restored. The number of beds under contract with JJA currently is adequate to meet demand; however, significant loss of additional bed space will result in a lack of adequate resources for the placement of youth. Increased number of youth in juvenile detention centers and juvenile correctional facilities at a much higher cost per day of care will result if capacity within YRCII's does not meet demand.